

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 04657 091040Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02  
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/080 W

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O 091000Z SEP 77  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8744  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS PRETORIA 4657

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SF, WA, UN, PORG  
SUBJECT: VORSTER WARNS ON WALVIS BAY

1. SUMMARY: THE CALL BY THE COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA FOR UN SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S " ANNEXATION" OF WALVIS BAY, MOVED PRIME MINISTER VORSTER TO RESPOND SEP 8 THAT, IF THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN ANY WAY DISPUTED SOUTH AFRICA'S OWNERSHIP OF THE AREA, HE COULD SEE NO MERIT IN FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE FIVE WESTERN POWERS ON THE FUTURE OF NAMIBIA. END SUMMARY:

2. SPEAKING TO THE TRANSVAAL NATIONAL PARTY CONGRESS ON DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES THE EVENING OF SEPT 8, PRIME MINISTER VORSTER SWITCHED FROM AFRIKAANS TO ENGLISH TO ADDRESS THE UNCLASSIFIED

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QUESTION OF SOUTH AFRICA'S CLAIM TO WALVIS BAY, WHICH THE COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA HAD CHALLENGED. READING FIRST FROM A REPORT THAT THE EGYPTIAN UN AMBASSADOR, WHO WAS " BELIEVED TO HAVE ACTED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE AND APPROVAL OF THE FIVE WESTERN POWERS," HAD TAKEN THE INITIATIVE IN THE COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA TO SEEK SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON THE MATTER, VORSTER MADE THE FOLLOWING REMARKS.

3. " I WANT TO SAY CATEGORICALLY TONIGHT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WALVIS BAY IS SOUTH AFRICAN TERRITORY. IT HAS BEEN SOUTH AFRICAN TERRITORY FOR CLOSE TO A HUNDRED YEARS. WHAT IS MORE , IT WAS ALWAYS RECOGNIZED BY ALL COUNTRIES AS BELONGING TO SOUTH AFRICA. THE OWNERSHIP OF WALVIS BAY WAS NEVER DISPUTED EVEN IN THE HOTTEST DEBATES THAT WE HAD IN THE UN. IN 1922, A LAW WAS PASSED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN PARLIAMENT, WHICH MADE IT POSSIBLE, ONLY FOR PRACTICAL REASONS AND IT WAS STATED EXPLICITLY AS SUCH IN THE BILL, MADE IT POSSIBLE TO ADMINISTER AS IF-- FOR THAT PURPOSE AND THAT PURPOSE ALONE-- IT WAS PART OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA. AND I SAID ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT IN PARLIAMENT LAST YEAR, I SAID IT AGAIN THIS YEAR, WHAT IS MORE I TOLD THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FIVE WESTERN COUNTRIES-- NAMELY UNITED STATES, BRITAIN, FRANCE, GERMANY, CANADA WHEN I MET THEM IN MAY OF THIS YEAR -- I TOLD THEM THAT IT WAS THE INTENTION OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TO BRING BACK WALVIS BAY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES TO THE CAPE PROVINCE TO THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA. AND, IN TERMS OF MY ANNOUNCEMENT, NOTICE (WAS) PUBLISHED ON THE FIRST OF SEPTEMBER WHICH DID JUST THAT. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THIS PROCLAMATION APPEARED ON THE FIRST OF SEPTEMBER, THE SPOKESMAN OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UN SAW FIT TO CRITICIZE US AND HE HAD THE TEMERITY TO CALL OUR ACTION UNFORTUNATE AND UNILATERAL. I MIGHT ADD THAT WE IMMEDIATELY PROTESTED TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL IN THE STRONGEST TERMS. NOW COMES THIS ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE INTENTIONS OF THE SO-CALLED NAMIBIA COUNCIL. THEREFORE, I WANT TO SAY ON BEHALF OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT, IF THIS UNCLASSIFIED

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REPORT IS CORRECT-- I REPEAT, IF THIS REPORT IS CORRECT-- AND SHOULD THE SECURITY COUNCIL DECIDE TO CONDEMN SOUTH AFRICA FOR CLAIMING JURISDICTION OVER ITS OWN TERRITORY OR IF IT SHOULD IN ANY WAY DISPUTE SOUTH AFRICA'S OWNERSHIP OF THE TERRITORY, THEN I SEE NO MERIT AT ALL IN ANY FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE FIVE COUNTRIES CONCERNED. BECAUSE THEN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, YOU WILL AGREE WITH ME IT WILL BE A FUTILE TIME-WASTING EXERCISE."

4. SOUTH AFRICAN MEDIA TODAY, SEPT 9, CARRY A BRIEF REPORT THAT "WESTERN OFFICIALS" HAVE DENIED THE FIVE KNEW OF OR APPROVED THE COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA PROPOSAL FOR SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE OF THE WALVIS BAY ISSUE. BOWDLER

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PORG, PDEV, SF, WA, UN, (VORSTER, BALTHAZAR J)  
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